

The NICHOLAS,
NATHANIEL ATKINS, Master.

INSTRUCTIONS *issued by Vice-Admiral GRAVES, and afterwards confirmed by Admiral Lord SHULDHAM, in Obedience to which Lieutenant BROMEDGE seized this Ship.*

SAM^L. GRAVES.

By *Samuel Graves, Esq; Vice-Admiral of the White, and Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels employed, and to be employed, in the River Saint Lawrence, &c. &c. &c.*

YOU are hereby required and directed to observe and punctually obey the following Orders and Directions during the present Rebellion, or until you receive contrary Orders from myself or any other your Superior Officer, *viz.*

You are to seize and detain all Ships and Vessels belonging to the Inhabitants of the Four *New England* Provinces, and to send them to *Boston*, or to any other Port in *America*, where they may be safely kept until his Majesty's Pleasure is known concerning them; and you are, in all Cases of Seizure and Detention as aforesaid, to transmit to me an Account thereof, according to a Form annexed, and to give strict Directions to the Officer put on board, to prevent Embezzlement; and upon his Arrival at *Boston*, to report to me, or to the Commanding Officer at any other Port, the Condition of the Vessel, and if any Part of the Cargo is in Danger of perishing.

You are to do all that is in your Power to prevent any Commerce between the Colonies of *New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland*, and the *Carolina's*, and any other Places than *Great Britain, Ireland*, or his Majesty's Islands in the *West Indies*, including the *Bermuda* and *Bahama* Islands; to search every Vessel going into, or coming out of the Ports in these Colonies, and to seize and detain them, in every Case in which you shall make any Discovery of contraband Trade, or Conveyance of Arms and Ammunition, Military or Naval Stores of any Kind.

You are to receive on board, and afford every reasonable Accommodation, to the Governors or other Officers of the Colonies within your respective Stations, who may be compelled by the Violences of the People to seek such an Asylum; and generally to afford every Protection in your Power to any of his Majesty's Subjects who may require it: And further, you are hereby required and directed to cause it to be publicly signified in all such Sea-Port Towns as are accessible to the King's Ships, that if any Violences shall hereafter be offered to any of the Officers of the Crown, or other peaceably-disposed Subjects to his Majesty, or if any Bodies of Men shall be raised and armed in the said Towns, or any Military Works erected, otherwise than by Order of his Majesty or those acting under his Authority, or if any Attempts shall be made to seize or destroy any public Magazines of Arms, Ammunition, or other Stores, it will be your Duty to proceed by the most vigorous Efforts against the said Town, as in open Rebellion against the King. And if after such Signification, any Town shall persist in the rebellious Acts above stated, you are hereby required and directed to proceed accordingly (it being his Majesty's firm Resolution that every Measure be pursued for suppressing, by the most vigorous Efforts, by Sea and Land, this unnatural Rebellion, which menaces the Subversion of the present happy Constitution.)

And whereas there is Ground to suspect, that many Persons in *England* hold a traiterous Correspondence with his Majesty's Rebellious Subjects in *North America*, you are hereby most strictly required and directed to stop and search all Merchant Ships and Vessels bound to or from *North America*, and carefully examine every Letter on board; and all those that shall in your Opinion contain any Matter tending to aid, abet, or advise, the rebellious Proceedings of his Majesty's Subjects in *North America*, to secure and send them to me, carefully sealed up, by the safest and quickest Conveyance.

You

You are to observe the same Conduct with Respect to all Letters containing Intelligence of present or intended Operations of the Rebels, or any other Information proper for me to be acquainted with.

You are to seize, and send to *Boston*, all Ships and Vessels belonging to any of the other Colonies in *North America* laden with Provisions, Rum, Live Cattle, Hay, Salt, Lumber, Molasses, Fuel, or any Sort of Naval Stores, whether they are in Breach of any Act of Trade or not; constantly transmitting to me Accounts thereof as before directed, upon seizing the Ships and Vessels belonging to the Four *New England* Governments.

And whereas the Rebels are striving to equip a naval Force to intercept Supplies coming to the Army and Fleet at *Boston*, and to oppose the small Ships and Vessels of his Majesty's Squadron, you are to take or destroy these Pirates wherever they can be found, and all Vessels of whatever Denomination, the Property of Rebels, in the Harbours or on the Coast of the Four *New England* Governments, and also those in the other Colonies that are arming, or are evidently intended to be employed in the Rebellion against his Majesty.

Whenever it can be done, you are to seize any of the Delegates to the Congress, the Rebel General Officers, or principal Aiders and Abettors of the Rebellion, and keep them Prisoners until you can safely deliver them to me; and you are to seize all Vessels carrying Emigrants from *Great Britain* to the Colonies, and send them to *Boston* or *Rhode Island*.

Given under my Hand, on board his Majesty's Ship *Preston*, at *Boston*,
the Day of 1775.

SAM. GRAVES.

To Captain
Commander of his Majesty's
the

By Command of the Admiral,
G. GEFFRINA.

The above is an Order which was issued by my Predecessor Vice-Admiral *Graves*, Commander in Chief of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in *North America*, to the Captains and Commanders of those Ships then under his Command, of which the *Savage* Sloop, then under the Command of Captain *Bromedge*, was one, and which Order was confirmed by me on my Arrival there.—
Received from Vice-Admiral *Graves*, the 16th January 1776.

SHULDHAM.

Letter from General Sir WILLIAM HOWE to Rear-Admiral SHULDHAM, signifying his Opinion on the Detention of this Ship with naval Stores at Halifax.
Dated 16th February, 1776.

S I R,

Boston, 16th February, 1776.

I am favoured with Copies of Captain *Bromedge*'s Letter, and an Account of the Cargoes on board the Ships *Nicholas* and *Boston Packet*, the Properties of *Thomas Boilston* and *William Denny*, of this Town.

Admitting it should appear that the Laws of Trade have not been infringed, yet the Probability of these Stores being smuggled away to the Enemy, if not prevented, makes me think it highly proper that they should be detained: I am more particularly led to this, *William Denny* having been guilty of notorious Treason, and *Thomas Boilston*'s Principles of Loyalty much to be doubted.

Your superior Judgment in Affairs of this Nature, coming more particularly under your own Department, does not require this Intrusion of my private Opinion, which I flatter myself you will excuse, as proceeding from that Regard and Esteem wherewith I have the Honour to be most sincerely,

S I R,

Molineux Shuldham, Esq;
Rear-Admiral of the White,
&c. &c. &c.

Your most obedient, humble Servant,

W. HOWE.

